

June 4, 2015

Business Record
Women of Influence Selection Committee

Dear Committee Members:

I am honored to add my recommendation to the nomination of Elisabeth Buck for the 2015 Women of Influence Recognition. Elisabeth would be an ideal nominee for the award.

For nearly a decade I have had the opportunity to work with Lis on Workforce Development issues in our region both through her role as Director of Iowa Workforce Development and now at United Way. There is not a more capable, knowledgeable, and committed leader in Central Iowa in this arena. Lis has dedicated the better part of her career to helping individuals prepare and secure opportunities to lead more fulfilling and sustainable lives. And she does this work with true respect and compassion for all and with the utmost integrity and accountability. She holds the respect and admiration of peers, colleagues and professional leaders across the State and the Country.

Lis is a collaborative leader who never takes the credit for the many outstanding initiatives she has developed and lead. Every meeting with Lis always includes thoughtful discussion and the encouragement for all to provide input. While Lis is fully capable of making the decision or determining the direction of a project, she ensures that the group owns the decision. It is always "we" and not "I". She also welcomes new ideas and engages others into a fair and thorough vetting process before deciding whether to move forward or not.

Elisabeth Buck is a woman of positive influence in our community and would be a great asset to this year's class of awardees. I am pleased to support her nomination for this honor.

Sincerely,



Mary Bontrager
Executive Vice President,
Workforce Development/Education

